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**SUBJECT** Comments on Soviet DDR Policy on German Unity

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**SOURCE**

1. A meeting [redacted] October 19 [redacted] statement before the Volkskammer that the present movement for the unity of Germany was fully supported by the USSR. He said that the USSR would not stand idly by if the West rejects the unity proposals, and gave this as a statement of known Russian policy. Dertinger further stated that the Russians were in dead earnest about the unity proposals and were completely indifferent about the form and structure of the unified Germany so long as West Germany was not included in the western military bloc.
2. Dertinger said that a neutral Germany would be the principal theme in the unity action which could be honestly sponsored by East Germany since East Germany is completely confident of the increasing willingness of the German people to regard the USSR as a friendly neighbor and the United States as a warmonger. The USSR intends to make its position on the unity proposals known in the near future and will make new suggestions, according to Dertinger. He further stated that the breaking-off of Adenauer's discussions with the Western Commissioners was not to be regarded as a condition for progressing with the German unity plan.\*
3. On 13 October, Gerhard Eisler issued a directive to all East German newspapers and radio stations forbidding them to use the line of demanding that Adenauer discontinue his conversations with the West as a prior condition for talks about German unity. This directive also ordered a halt to the unfavorable comment on the question of international control of elections.
4. A group of approximately 50 West German newspapers have been invited to Berlin during the week of October 15 for discussions of questions relating to German unity. Among those invited were the Stuttgarter Deutsche Zeitung, Die Zeit of Hamburg and the Frankfurt Neue Presse. The papers which received invitations were those which, until now, were particularly critical of the DDR.

\* [redacted] Comment: Wilhelm Pieck hinted that this was the official line two days before.

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